

Listing of Claims:

Please replace the claims of record, all prior versions and listings of claims in the application with the following:

1. (currently amended) An apparatus for transferring dosage forms containing a medicament from a first location to a second location, comprising:

- a) a flexible conveying means;
- b) a plurality of transfer units mounted to said conveying means, said transfer units having at least one retainer ~~having a shape that frictionally engages~~ at least one of said dosage forms inserted therein;
- c) a cam track defining a path between said first and second locations; and
- d) means for driving said conveying means along said cam track.

2. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the transfer units are mounted to said conveying means in a cantilever configuration.

3. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein each transfer unit comprises first and second retainers made of an elastomeric material and comprising segmented fingers, said first retainer capable of holding a first ~~substrate~~dosage form and said second retainer capable of holding a second ~~substrate~~dosage form.

4. (original) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said first and second retainers are located side by side within each transfer unit.

5. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein each transfer unit comprises a plurality of cam followers that ride in said cam track.

6. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising vacuum means for applying a vacuum to said ~~substrate~~dosage forms while they are held by the transfer units.

7. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said driving means comprises a drive pulley and an idler pulley linked together such that the drive pulley and the idler pulley move together.

8. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said transfer units are rotatably mounted to said conveying means, such that said transfer units are capable of being rotated while they are being transferred from said first location to said second location.

9. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said apparatus further comprises a rotatable actuator arm linked to said transfer units such that as said actuator arm rotates, said transfer units rotate.

10. (currently amended) An apparatus for transferring substrated dosage forms from a first operating module having a first rotor adapted to carry said substrated dosage forms around a first circular horizontal path to a second operating module having a second rotor adapted to carry said substrated dosage forms around a second circular horizontal path, said apparatus comprising

a flexible conveying means traversing a third path,

a first portion of said third path being coincident with a portion of the arc of said first circular horizontal path and

a second portion of said third path being coincident with a portion of the arc of said second circular horizontal path and

a plurality of transfer units mounted to said conveying means, said transfer units having at least one retainer having a shape that frictionally engages at least one of said dosage form inserted therein.

11. (original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said flexible conveying means operates at a velocity matching the velocities of the first rotary module and the second rotary module.

12. (currently amended) An apparatus for transferring dosage forms containing a medicament from a first location to a second location, comprising:

- a) a flexible conveying means;
- b) a plurality of transfer units mounted to said conveying means, each transfer unit ~~having at least two retaining units such that each transfer unit is being~~ capable of holding at least two dosage forms;
- c) a cam track defining a path between said first and second locations; and
- d) means for driving said conveying means along said cam track.

13. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the transfer units are mounted to said conveying means in a cantilever configuration.

14. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein each transfer unit comprises first and second retainers, said first retainer and said second retainer each being capable of holding said ~~substrated dosage form~~ so that said ~~substrated dosage forms~~ cannot move or rotate randomly.

15. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said first and second retainers are located side by side within each transfer unit.

16. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the paths for the cam track and plurality of transfer units are defined by separate and distinct components of said apparatus.

17. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the path is non-circular.

18. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said path is dog-bone shaped.

19. (currently amended) An apparatus for transferring ~~substrated dosage forms~~ from a first location to a second location, comprising:

- a) a flexible conveying means;

b) a plurality of transfer units mounted to said flexible conveying means, said transfer units having at least one retainer ~~with a shape that frictionally engages at~~ least one of said substrated dosage forms inserted therein;

c) a cam track defining a path between said first and second locations; and

d) a driving means for driving said conveying means along said cam track, said driving means comprising a drive pulley and an idler pulley that are linked and driven to reduce side slack condition on said flexible conveying means.

20. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the path for the flexible conveying means and plurality of transfer units is determined by said cam track.

21. (previously presented) An apparatus for transferring dosage forms containing a medicament from a first location to a second location, comprising:

a) a flexible conveying means;

b) a plurality of transfer units mounted to said conveying means, each transfer unit being adapted to rotate while they are moved from said first location to said second location along a non-circular path, each transfer unit being capable of holding at least two dosage forms, and wherein the plurality of transfer units further comprise a plunger shaft mounted therein and capable of vertical movement into the respective space in which a dosage form is retained;

c) a cam track defining a path between said first and second locations; and

d) means for driving said flexible conveying means along said cam track.

22. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein said path is dog-bone shaped.

23. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising a rotatable actuator arm linked to said transfer units such that as said actuator arm rotates, said transfer units rotate.

24. Cancel

Serial No. 10/782,551

25. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the path for the flexible conveying means and plurality of transfer units is determined by said cam track.

26. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising vacuum means for applying a vacuum to said ~~substrate~~dosage forms while they are held by the transfer units. |